

TOM EWING. Like the rest of the Members of the House, I can say that TOM will be sorely missed when he leaves this body.

Before I go any further, I must point out that TOM, myself, and Representative BILL BARRETT all bear a resemblance to one another. It is not uncommon for colleagues to confuse us for one another.

Colleagues often say such things as, "Great job in the chair" or "Saw you on television—good job" or some have approached me with an agriculture issue. The thing is, I wasn't even close to the chair, on television, or on a committee that deals with ag issues.

In fact, I have been mistaken for TOM or BILL—and vice versa—so many times that it has become somewhat of an inside joke among the three of us.

Actually, it has gotten so out of hand that people have started confusing whose wife is with whom. Now I've been married to my wife Sandie for 38 years, but TOM and BILL continually have people mistakenly ask them how their "wife" Sandie is.

Of course, these people are making an honest mistake but, naturally, the three of us have only perpetuated it—sometimes when these people ask me how Connie or Elsie are doing, I'll kid around and answer them. And these guys are all too ready to return the favor when people ask them about Sandie.

It's gotten so regular that one time TOM and BILL saw Sandie approaching in one of the hallways and TOM quipped to BILL, "Look BILL, here comes our wife."

Since TOM and BILL are moving on, I won't have anyone to get confused with anymore. I might start to get lonely.

On a more serious note, TOM has been a good friend and a valuable Member of the House of Representatives. His experience—first as a lawmaker in the Illinois State House and then in this body—will be missed. His advice and level perspective will be notably absent.

Sandie and I wish you and Connie health, happiness, and love as you enter the next phase of your lives.

CONGRATULATING VICTORIA
CLARK ON HER ACHIEVEMENTS
IN SCIENCE

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Victoria Clark, a Ware County High School freshman, for receiving top honors in the state of Georgia in the field of science. She has become a finalist in the Discovery Young Scientist Challenge and is competing with 40 students nationwide for a college scholarship.

Miss Clark was recognized as a state winner because of the outstanding science project she entered in the state competition. The project she has been working on focuses on a way to detect early signs of age-related macular degeneration, which is incurable and hereditary. This disorder is the leading cause of blindness. Her research has explored the

prospective of using a color hue test to discover the disease early on.

Miss Clark was an eighth grade student when her project was chosen to compete at the state level. She won first place at the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair in April. She was chosen for the national competition from among 1,600 other middle school students in 23 states who entered the competition.

Victoria Clark is a wonderful student and has been recognized many times before for her scholastic aptitude, especially in science. She is also a well-rounded young person and a contributing citizen of Waycross, Georgia. She is working for the betterment of her community, and with this project, she is contributing not only to her own success, but to finding a cure which threatens people the world over.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate and honor Victoria Clark. She is a bright young person who is helping people by improving the detection of this life altering disease. Her research is amazing and has been recognized as such by teachers and scientists alike. For one so young, too, her accomplishments are exceptional. She serves as an example to all of us of what young people can do for others if given the opportunity.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT R.
MCMILLAN AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS
TO RELATIONS WITH PANAMA

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the high priority that should be placed on improving our relationship with Panama. Beyond the interest in the Panama Canal, where the traffic destined to or from the United States amounts to some 65% of total Canal tonnage, U.S. investment in Panama ranks third in Latin America. Panama has many investment opportunities and is fast becoming a strong tourist destination. Large numbers of Panamanians are fluent in English, and the U.S. dollar is the official currency of the nation making Panama attractive to private investments. It is extremely important, in the interests of both the United States and Panama, to keep strong personal and economic ties between the countries.

One Long Islander is trying to make a difference in those relations. Robert R. McMillan has just been elected Chairman of the United States-Panama Business Council—an organization devoted to the continuance of close relations between our two nations. I want to congratulate him on his election and wish him the best in his new endeavors.

H.R. 5430: THE CONSUMER ONLINE
PROTECTION ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, American consumers are flocking to the Internet in unprecedented numbers seeking to transact business and tap the nearly limitless informational databases. The explosion in Internet usage, however, is not without problems. Unlike shopping in a mall or browsing through a library where individuals travel anonymously through the merchandise racks and library stacks, the Internet is increasing becoming less and less anonymous. Direct marketing firms are now trying to identify individuals as they surf the web to isolate where they visit and what they are viewing.

While just knowing where individuals are traveling to on the Internet has some value it is the next step in data collection that is most disconcerting. Companies are now attempting to complete the step by attaching your personal information to your web site visits. It is this type of activity that has truly frightening implications because it lifts the veil of anonymity that consumers enjoy in the traditional bricks-and-mortar marketplace. Powerful computer programs have been developed that can compile personal information at a level and completeness usually associated with the knowledge of an immediate family member.

For that reason, I have introduced H.R. 5430, the Consumer Online Protection Act of 2000. H.R. 5430 seeks to return some of the anonymity back to consumers while they are online by prohibiting the correlation of personal information to web visits. In addition, the legislation requires the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to promulgate rules specifying that all operators of a Web site or online service provide clear and conspicuous notice of their privacy policy in clear non-legalistic terms. H.R. 5430 also requires a Web site or online service to provide consumers with an opt-out to prevent the use of their personal information for any activity other than transactional. Finally, the privacy policy must clearly state how any collected information will be shared or transferred to an external company or third party.

Taken in combination, these requirements will provide consumers with the knowledge and control they need to prevent the dissemination of personal information provided to an online entity. What I am seeking to prohibit is a third party creating a complete profile of individuals and families to sell or share without prior affirmative consent. While I understand that there are many differing approaches to the issue of Internet privacy, I believe this legislation addresses a critical component and I look forward to moving this legislation in the 107th Congress.